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and he has succeeded admirably in his difficult undertaking. He has really made a brief guide to the study of early Christian painting, — the term “art” on the title-page is a little too comprehensive, — and he has done it with excellent judgment and taste, and with ample and accurate information. The thoroughness of its execution, and the intelligence and knowledge displayed in it, are worthy of all praise. It is the most scholarly work relating to art that has been published in America, and it should serve to mark an epoch in the progress of American art criticism and culture.

17. — *Four Years among Spanish Americans*. By F. HASSAUREK, late United States Minister Resident to the Republic of Ecuador. New York: Hurd and Houghton. 1867. 12mo. pp. 401.

MR. HASSAUREK says, in his Preface: “This is not a book of travels. The impressions of a traveller, in a foreign country, who passes from one place to another, taking hasty notes of undigested observations, are often erroneous, and generally unreliable. It is necessary to live among a people, to speak their language, to know their history and literature, to study their customs, and to associate with them continually, in order to be able to write a book about them which those who are thoroughly familiar with the subject will not throw aside as presumptuous and superficial.” These sentences contain truths which it would be well if travellers, and more especially if American travellers, would take to heart. For there are not wanting those who hold to the belief, that the impressions of a traveller in a foreign country, who passes from one place to another, taking hasty notes of undigested observations, are sure, in most cases, for purposes of publication, to be sufficiently correct, and who stoutly maintain against all comers the proposition that, to live among a people, to speak their language, to know their history, their literature, and their customs, only breeds prejudice, and deprives the observer's mind of that judicial temper which usually accompanies moderate information. We are glad to see signs, in such books as Mr. Tomes's “Champagne Country,” of last year and the volume before us, that these views are disappearing before what must be regarded as truer ones. Such books make one hopeful that the day is not far distant when Americans shall feel that the man who, after a six months' jaunt through half a dozen foreign states, offers to the public an exhaustive treatise on the subject of his travels, is either an impostor or a fool.

It is this conscientiousness of Mr. Hassaurek — this moral grace,

rather than any beauty or force of style — that makes his book valuable. He is not a vivid writer, and does not bring before the reader very impressively the scenes which he describes. But he inspires confidence, and gives a great deal of valuable information. And not only does Mr. Hassaurek adhere carefully to observed facts, but he has been at great pains to collect as many facts as he could; he has not only travelled carefully over the South American countries of which he writes, but has even gone so far as to read what even other writers have said upon his subject, — a task which has till of late, in most quarters, been thought to be plainly one of supererogation. And his facilities for obtaining information of all kinds were so great, that the results of his observations have a somewhat peculiar value.

Sentiment and the proper use of the auxiliary are Mr. Hassaurek's two chief stumbling-blocks. To deal with the latter first, we have no wish to do more than point out the fact, that the auxiliary future is beyond the author's control; and that he should, therefore, in all future works, confine himself, as far as possible, to the present and perfect tenses; or, if that is not practicable, then that he should adopt a uniform idiom, and always use the same word, that is, always "will," or else invariably "shall." We feel quite sure that this would lead to happier results than his present practice; for, by giving himself the liberty of selection, he inevitably uses "shall" where "will" would be proper, and *vice versa*. It is not, however, merely a confusion between "will" and "shall" that misleads Mr. Hassaurek; there is even a profounder difficulty. He has an unconquerable inclination to use the future tense, on occasions where the idiomatic reader expects something else; and to change, with acrobatic rapidity, from some other time to the future, in so bewildering a way as to leave it somewhat in doubt whether simple probabilities or actual facts have been referred to. In describing the rainy season at Guayaquil he says: "Puddles are formed. . . . The savana . . . will be under water. . . . Myriads of little insects will hover. . . . Fevers and dysenteries make their appearance, and business is suspended. . . . During this season, Guayaquil must appear gloomy." What will we say to this? as Mr. Hassaurek would say. As regards the unfortunate "will" and "shall," he has so many aids and abettors, that he might, perhaps, be forgiven; but he is the only man living, we believe, with whom the use of the idiom quoted above is a constant habit, and we trust that he may remain so; for a more ungrammatical way of obtaining picturesqueness could not be devised.

As to our second point of complaint, it may be doubted, perhaps, whether any advantage is gained by telling a sentimental man that sen-

timent, though an excellent thing in its way, is, at times, very far from an excellent thing; still, as the question does admit of doubt, and it is our duty to see things as they are, it must be confessed that the following bit of feeling about a certain South American mountain, and especially the remark which it contains about the condor, are not touching, but, on the contrary, quite amusing: "The two highest peaks at its southern extremity appeared, to my excited fancy, like a king and queen, seated on icy thrones, clad in long, snowy robes, and looking down, on their hoary court of minor rocks and crags, with calm and melancholy majesty. Sad and sorrowful seemed the queen, as the rays of the setting sun lingered on her musing countenance. Perhaps, she had come from more genial climes; perhaps birds had carolled, and flowers had smiled, upon her happy childhood, and now she must pass her dreary life, speechless and motionless, as if charmed by an enchanter's spell, at the cold side of her icy consort. There was a melancholy and resigned expression in, what I imagined to be, her face. Perhaps, she was another Blanche de Bourbon, sacrificed to some cruel Don Pedro of those cold and lofty realms, to which even the condor rarely elevates his soaring flight."

Let us say, again, that the book, as a conscientiously written account of countries well known to the author, is valuable. We trust, however, that Mr. Hassaurek's plan of increasing its bulk by historical additions may be abandoned.

18. — *The Invasion of Canada in 1775; including the Journal of Captain Simeon Thayer, describing the Perils and Sufferings of the Army under Colonel Benedict Arnold in its March through the Wilderness to Quebec: with Notes and Appendix.* By EDWIN MARTIN STONE. Providence: Knowles, Anthony, & Co., Printers. 1867. 8vo. pp. xxiv., 104, and 12 pages unpagcd.

THE Introduction to this work contains a careful and well-written account of the "invasion of Canada." The Journal of Captain Thayer is a simple and interesting narrative of the experience of one of the Rhode Island officers under Arnold. There are few passages in it of special historic importance, but it gives a vivid impression of the hardships of the expedition, and now and then there is a touch of character or feeling which is of value as an expression of human nature. It contains some curious notes on the condition of the country; for instance, under date of October 8, 1775, Captain Thayer records the killing of a moose high up on the Kennebec River, and says: "They are so numer-